

THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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Event focuses on increasing awareness

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

Each year O'Gorman High School observes National Awareness Week with a day dedicated to educating students on the issues they will face throughout high school and college. This year's Awareness day was April 2 and included a keynote speaker, breakout sessions and many other activities for students to get involved in. These talks covered a variety of topics relating to high-schoolers ranging from suicide prevention to the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse.

"Awareness Day is another way to bring students together and help them make good decisions about life and to have fun too," said guidance counselor Kelly Jones. Students were able to take part in breakout sessions and a large number of students also had the opportunity to participate in a mock drunk driving accident, a new addition to this year's Awareness Day.

Before breakout sessions students attended a talk by this year's keynote speaker Tom Henderson. Henderson is the

founder of Restoration Generation, an organization that focuses on restoring relationships with others as well as ourselves. The talk addressed the obstacles students sometimes face as a result of broken relationships such as anger, poor self-image, identity confusion and depression.

In addition to the keynote speaker students were able to choose between fourteen different talks or demonstrations during the breakout session.

"The cool thing about Awareness Day is students get to choose the topics that are important to them," said Jones.

Also special to this year's Awareness day was Truth for Youth who presented on prevention of truth decay regarding moral issues young people are faced with every day. These along with the other talks are aimed at helping students to gain a fresh perspective on the issues they constantly hear about.

"Awareness Day is important because it gives us a chance to listen and gain new knowledge that we don't normally receive in a classroom setting," said junior Maren Curley.



CHEYENNE CHONTOS / KNIGHT SCROLL

Meredith Molseed choreographs a dance for Jets for the musical, *West Side Story*. See page 3 for more on *West Side Story*.

Student teachers bring fresh perspective to class

Liesel Julsrud
Activities Co-Editor

For years O'Gorman High School has participated in the student teacher program with various local colleges and universities. Students on the path to becoming educators are assigned to a class to learn teaching methods, assist students and teacher, as well as teach some scheduled lessons. Currently, O'Gorman has six student teachers.

Teresa Fester has had positive feedback on the program. "Two years ago, my student teacher was Mr. Pastrano who was a

graduate of O'Gorman and a member of my interp team and in several productions," said Fester.

"[Kama Konda-Varilek] is able to bring her own ideas and new methods to the classroom."
-Teresa Fester

"Working alongside him years later was such a wonderful experience."

Her current work with student teacher Kama Konda-

Varilek is going well also. "We both attended SDSU and have many similarities, but she is able to bring her own ideas and new methods to the classroom," said Fester. "Overall, [having student teachers] ends up being experience beneficial for the teacher, students and student teacher."

The program is most importantly a way for future educators to learn from a live setting.

"After a lesson, it's important to reflect on how the students grasp the information so I can adapt my lesson for the following day," said Konda-Varilek.

School gives opportunity to donate blood, save lives

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

The Community Blood Bank blood mobile will be at O'Gorman on April 20. Staff and students will have the opportunity to donate much-needed blood to the community.

"The Community Blood Bank needs to collect 550 units of blood per week to meet the needs of our patients in the Sioux Falls hospitals," said executive director of the Community Blood Bank, Ken Versteeg.

The blood mobile has been coming to O'Gorman

for the past 25 years, twice annually for the past 15 years. The school has donated 2,566 units of blood in that time.

"I would definitely tell everyone to go donate."
-Mitchell Jarding

The Community Blood Bank provides blood to hospitals and healthcare organizations.

People can donate blood if they are 17 years of age, 16 years old with

parental permission. They must be in good health. If someone is recovering from a cold or the flu they are asked not to donate.

Versteeg urges students and staff to donate blood. "When a person donates blood they directly impact the community's blood supply and save local patients' lives," said Versteeg.

Senior Mitchell Jarding plans to donate blood for the second time on April 20. "It's a great opportunity to give life and help those who need blood," said Jarding. "I would definitely tell everyone to go donate."

Annual book fair benefits students, English department; community encouraged to shop at event, donate

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

From April 25-26 O'Gorman will be holding its annual book fair at Barnes & Noble on 41st Street and Louise. Through these dates Barnes & Noble will donate a portion of the proceeds to O'Gorman.

Students and their families are also encouraged to buy books for the English department during this event. These are books that students will be reading in class, so English department head Doug Basche said it is a win-win scenario.

"It's a great idea," said Basche. "It helps keep costs down, and the students benefit from it because they're the ones who will be using the books. We usually receive a couple hundred books in dona-

tions."

Some of the English teachers also offer extra credit for students who donate books. Senior Marisa Moser said that she has donated books in the past for extra credit during this event and that she thinks it's a good way to earn extra credit while also helping the school.

"Buying at the book fair is a great way to support the school," said Moser. "It's awesome that it goes to helping the English department."

Moser also said the event is important because it encourages reading outside of assigned literature students have for class.

Students and their families are encouraged to shop at Barnes & Noble during the event to support the school.

Theology class aids community, enriches seniors

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

Every year O’Gorman gives seniors the opportunity to take a theology class called Christian Service. In this class students are able to go out into the community and help those in most need. The places that Christian Service students serve at include hospitals, nursing homes, hospices and schools.

The class has been a part of the theology department for over 17 years, and Sister Kathryn Easley, head of the theology department, said she hopes it is offered for years to come.

“This is different from other theology classes,” said Easley. “It focuses on who we are as Christians – the hands and feet of Christ. I love watching our students grow in awareness to the importance of service.”

One student to take Christian Service was senior Karl Shlanta. He took the class last semester and was assigned to serve at Children’s Inn, a place in Sioux Falls where abused women, children and men can find immediate shelter.

“My favorite part of the class was going out and doing the ser-

“[Christian Service] really opened my eyes to the needs of the community.”
-Karl Shlanta

vice,” said Shlanta. “I’ve always had service as a part of my life, but this taught me that I can find service in new places.”

Another student who took the class last semester was senior Andrea Veloir. She was assigned to Avera Behavioral Health and worked in the children’s unit.

“Through this class I also gained a greater understanding for people in general,” said Veloir. “You can’t judge a person because you never know what their story or background is.”

Both Shlanta and Veloir said that they encourage others to take the class and that they gained a great deal from their service.

“It really opened my eyes to the needs of the community,” said Shlanta.

The class is open to all seniors, though they must complete an application process. There is no limit to how many people can take the class.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Girls discuss the qualities of strong women at the annual all school retreat. The retreat will be held on April 23 this year.

Students, staff embrace retreat as opportunity to grow in faith

Nate Sotebeer
Staff Writer

Each year, O’Gorman students and staff take one day outside the classroom to focus on their relationship with God. This day serves an important purpose in engaging everyone in the building to look inwardly at their faith.

“The purpose of the retreat day is to provide a spiritually impactful day for the whole O’Gorman community,” said campus minister Jon Konz.

This day is taken seriously by students, though they still enjoy themselves in the process.

“It is a day off of regular school,” said junior Chris Lauer. “And it also reaffirms our call to help those most in need.”

This event is different from most retreats as the participants are generally more familiar with each other than other retreat options. Retreats are broken down by class, allowing for students to experience the day with their peers and have a shared experience to help them grow in faith.

“At the end of the day, all students and staff will hopefully have encountered Christ in some way,” said Konz.

This opportunity is granted to all students and staff on the same day, helping to grow the community of the school while growing in faith.

“It is a way to involve the whole school since Christ is the center of our school,” said Konz.

The all school retreat day will take place on April 23 at various sites around Sioux Falls.

Holiday’s focus not only on bunnies, candy; priests hard at work preparing for Easter

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

For many people Easter is about bunnies and eggs but for Father Shaun Haggerty, Easter is a time for service.

“We celebrate within the Holy Thursday Mass the fact that Jesus washed the feet of his apostles as sign of service,” said Father Haggerty. “Jesus said, ‘the Son of Man came to serve not be served.’”

Service is not only giving of money but also time and prayers can be just as essential.

“During Lent we also do penances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In almsgiving we give of our time, talent and treasure to God and His people,” said Haggerty.

Any project, big or small, can make a substantial difference. There are also several opportunities for service.

“At O’Gorman we have our service hours, we had a serving of meals at the Banquet a few weeks ago and we also recently had Empty Bowls,” said Haggerty.

Aside from the service, Father Haggerty keeps busy through offering penance services.

“We have penance services in all the Catholic Schools,” said Haggerty. “I also schedule our own penance service here at O’Gorman coordinating over 20 different priests to come and hear confessions. We also have penance services in the parishes as well. I suppose I hear about 150-200 confessions each Lent. There are few things that make me happier then to see people come back to God and receive his mercy in confession. We also do a lot of planning, hours and hours of planning for Holy Week and all the special litur-



Father Shaun Haggerty

gies.”

Though he does encourage students to participate in serving the community, he hopes that people can take away the true message of Easter as well.

“God can conquer all sin and death. There is not a problem that God cannot solve. He can solve even death,” said Haggerty.

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All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

Editorial Policy
All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the Knight Scroll.

Record number qualifies for Nationals

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

Nine O'Gorman oral interpers and six O'Gorman debaters qualified for the National Speech and Debate Association national tournament, filling 15 of the 20 open qualifying spots for the Rushmore District.

Both teams will be flying to Dallas for the tournament, which will take place from June 14-19.

The National Qualifier took place on Feb. 27-28.

Seniors Jonah Dally and Daniel Waddell qualified in Policy Debate, Alex King and Liesel Julsrud qualified in Public Forum Debate, Brett Duffek qualified in International Extemp and Andrew Mohama qualified in Domestic Extemp.

"This is the largest number of debaters to qualify in recent memory, possibly an all-time high for O'Gorman debate," said O'Gorman debate coach Bob Stevens.

"Going into this season, we were a little apprehensive," said Stevens. "We had graduated a strong senior class and while Liesel, Jonah and Brett all qualified for Nationals last year, the rest of the team was really an unknown quantity at the start of the year. They worked hard and



The oral interp and debate teams earned 15 spots at the national tournament in Dallas, Texas.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

their dedication and 'never give up' attitude produced this wonderful result."

Emmy Bear and Shreya Chandran will be performing dramatic interp pieces at nationals. Jackson Frey will be performing an original oratory. Three O'Gorman duos qualified: Kelly Maxwell and Sean Miles, Sam Maxwell and Christian Heisler and Quinn Schoenfelder and Cody Bloomer.

"Never before has our team taken three duos to nationals," said senior interper Christian Heisler. "It was a great way to end the season in South Dakota."

Heisler, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis last fall, was named Rushmore District Student of the Year.

"Our team could make waves in Dallas."
- Christian Heisler

"Receiving the award meant the world to me," said Heisler. "I never thought it would be me, but after a tough year with a variety of issues, it felt so great to see my hard work pay off."

Debaters and Interpers feel

confident about their chances at nationals.

Debaters and interpers will be working hard before Nationals. Both teams will have scattered practices throughout the rest of the school year and part of the summer before the tournament.

"Our team holds so much potential," said Heisler. "We have creative but powerful pieces that could bring us to the final stage. Our team could make waves in Dallas."

"Nationals is a very difficult competition but I feel very good

about our chances to get beyond the elimination rounds," said Stevens. "As I told them at a meeting recently, 'We aren't going to Dallas for a June vacation, we are going with the plan to do well.' I really feel that all of these debaters have an excellent chance to make O'Gorman proud at Nationals."

"I am incredibly proud of the students as they have been extremely dedicated," said oral interper coach Teresa Fester. "I have coached some of them for four years and it has been some of the best years of my coaching career."

Ovation! sings, dances way through season

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

As the show choir season goes on, the team has received several awards.

At Best of Show, Ovation! was first runner up in AA, and won Best Costumes award and Best Female Soloist was won by senior Alyse Brown.

"It is my last year in show choir, and I know it has been worth all the effort and time I put into it these past four years," said Brown.

Ovation! has also been awarded Best Vocals and second runner up. An Outstanding Performer award went to sophomore Micah Spader.

Being in show choir requires a lot of dedication.

"We practice every day in school and every Thursday night, with competitions on most weekends," said junior Claire Berman.

The team doesn't seem to mind, however, as they stay positive and focused throughout the year.

"I think we are a great team. We work very hard and give a lot of time and effort to reach our goals," said show choir director Johnny Parezo.

Show choir finished their season with the Parent Show on March 31.

West Side Story hits stage as gangs explore classic love story through song

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

The spring musical, *West Side Story*, is unlike the musicals of the past few years.

It is a reinterpretation of the classic love story of *Romeo and Juliet*.

"It has a tragic theme, sophisticated music, engaging dance and a no-holds-barred reflection of social problems," said Ms. Teresa Fester, the musical director. "It is time for our students to experience this type of theatre as we have the talent."

These differences only serve to make the cast and crew more excited to perform it.

"I have been in the musical before, but this year's musical is one of my favorites, and I am so excited to see what we can do with it," said junior Emmy Bear, who plays Anita.

There is also an added focus on singing.

"This year's musical is one of my favorites."
-Emmy Bear

"This year we are able to utilize the music direction of both myself and previous O'Gorman choral director Mrs. Cathy Britton," said choir director Rachel Kramer. "With two music directors, we can give more individualized attention. I really enjoy working with the students."

Being involved in musical is a serious commitment for the cast which practices every day after school and on weekends.

"Since this is my last year in musical, I really want to make it the best one yet," said senior Christian Heisler, who plays Tony.

The musical runs on April 21, 23, 24 and 25.

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Track team excited for new season with several returners, good weather

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

O’Gorman’s track team is geared up for yet another successful season this spring.

Head coach Doug Lindner is pleased with how practices have turned out. “It has been a great start to our season,” said Lindner. “The weather has been cooperating and the kids are fantastic.”

The field group has seen progress between seasons and through recent practices. “I think it’s going to be really great,” said

senior thrower Sam West.

“We have a smaller group which means we can get more individual training with the coaches,” said West. “We are getting stronger, especially as seniors.”

Emma Hertz and Jessica Mireras placed in last year’s state tournament, which sets the field team up for a good year.

The track portion has also seen strong potential with their runners.

“This season is looking promising,” said junior runner Alex Anderson. “We have experienced

leaders that act as mentors that are also physically stronger and faster.”

“It’s exciting to watch everyone top their records and achieve their personal goals,” said Anderson. “That’s what this season is really based on.”

“It can be a really difficult activity to be a part of,” said Lindner. “It really pushes the individual to commit time and effort to be successful.”

The state meet begins on May 29 in Sturgis and concludes on May 30 in Rapid City.



SD PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The Lady Knights pose with their runner-up trophy after falling to Washington in the championship game. The Lady Knights set the record for wins in a season and also had five girls selected to the all conference team.

Girls take second after narrow loss to rival Warriors

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

The Lady Knights finished second in the 2015 girls state basketball tournament on March 12-14. The girls ended their season on Saturday with a record of 23 and 2, their only two losses against in town rivals Sioux Falls Washington.

The class AA opener finished with an O’Gorman victory over Huron 76-32. The Lady Knights played a strong defensive game forcing 22 turnovers and 11 blocks. Senior Dalee Stene led the team with 19 points and eight assists.

After the win over Huron the Lady Knights defeated Aberdeen Central 49-42. Senior South Dakota State recruit Jess Meiras contributed eight points, nine rebounds, and three blocks to help put the Lady Knights in

the Championship.

The lady Knights fell to Washington in the Championship game 45-42.

“We played our best but Washington just played better than us and came out with the win,” said junior Emily Kolbeck. “We were able to lean on each other and the memories that we had made throughout the season helped us to get through it and keep a positive attitude.”

Despite a tough loss, the Lady Knights set the record for the most season wins in O’Gorman’s history and also had five girls make the all conference team. “I’m so proud to call the girls my teammates and we accomplished so much,” said senior Kylie Lamberty. “Although we didn’t win, I think we reached our ultimate goal of greatness.”

Boys drop thriller to rival Lincoln, take third at state tournament

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

The Knights capped off an 18-7 year with a third place finish at the AA state basketball tournament in Sioux Falls.

“Our seven losses came against four teams. We lost to Lincoln three times, Washington twice, LaLumiere, Indiana who is one of the top teams in the country and a two point game at Yankton. That’s it” said coach Derek Robey. “So we certainly feel good about what we accomplished.”

The Knights began the state tournament with a matchup against the Pierre Governors. During this game junior Antonio Casiello produced seven points, which resulted in a 54-49 win.

“We challenged some of our guys at halftime, and they came up big the second half. The first half we committed way too many turnovers,” said Robey. “In fact we had nine turnovers that led to Pierre scoring 13 of their 27 points. We played much better in the second half having a really strong third period where we outscored the Governors 19-6.”

This win vaulted the Knights into the semifinals against the Lincoln Patriots, but the Knights fell in double overtime.

“We worked hard enough and did a lot of good

things that really put us into a position to win the game,” said Robey. “It just wasn’t meant to be I guess.”

Senior shooting guard Braxton Elliott finished with a game-high of 35 points. Adding to the Knights’ attack was senior Davis Cowan, who finished with 17 points. Ultimately, the Patriots were able to pull away with a 69-66 win.

This set the Knights to play against Rapid City Stevens in the third place game. During this game Cowan produced 16 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and two steals.

“I was proud of our guys for bouncing back after a tough loss. We wanted to end on a positive note having fun, and ending the season the right way,” said Robey. “I thought our guys had fun, played for each other, showed a lot of pride and compassion. We played a lot of kids and just went out showcasing the talent of our team. It was a fun game.”

Elliott led the Knights with 22 points on 9-for-11 shooting from the field. Overall, Elliott scored 83 points in the tourney.

O’Gorman also received solid minutes from senior reserve Jacob Fleck who started as point guard. The game ended in a 59-33 Knights’ victory.

The Lincoln Patriots went on to capture the Class AA title with a 47-45 win.

Lady Knight golfers ready to fight for city, conference, state titles

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

The O’Gorman girls golf team is gearing up for what they hope will be a successful and competitive year.

This year the team hopes to win the “big three” golf prizes: the team city tournament, the team conference tournament

and the team state tournament.

“We have very high standards because we a competitive and hard-working team so we hope to win every tournament we play in,” said senior golfer Kelsey Johnson.

Competition began in March and continues in April and May. The state golf tournament will be held in Rapid City May 18-19.

Baseball hoping for strong year

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

After graduating eight seniors from the team last season, the O’Gorman Knights baseball squad will look to their seniors with experience to lead their season. These seniors include Reece Mimmack, Mason Koch and AJ Martinec.

“I expect a ton out of our seniors this year. Not only do I expect them to be big impacts on the field, I put a lot of responsibility to help run practices and be on-field coaches as well,” said coach Jack VanLeur. “We have

three seniors this year that have quite a bit of varsity experience: Martinec, Koch and Mimmack. If these three guys step up for us this year we should have no problem competing at the end of the season with anyone.”

One of the most competitive teams this season will be the defending state champion Lincoln Patriots.

“I’m most worried about teams in our region; Roosevelt returns some good pitching and should contend for a state title this year,” said VanLeur. “Yankton, who is also in our region,

returns a lot of players. It’ll be a good challenge for our guys to see if we can keep the score down against teams like that.”

Top arms for O’Gorman will be Mimmack, junior Connor Hurley and junior Luke Merrill.

“I’m excited for our season to get underway. We have a couple of seniors with experience but there are a lot of open spots to be filled,” said VanLeur. “There are a lot of guys trying to earn starting spots. We should have a lot of depth this year thanks to a good group of juniors and sophomores.”

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Cookie Jar takes cake for graduation treats

Samantha Lenz
Abby Baka

The Cookie Jar Eatery in downtown Sioux Falls has been family owned and operated since 2002. As both an eat-in restaurant and a catering business they provide an array of lunch and catering options.

The Cookie Jar is an excellent choice for graduation party catering as they provide a wide range of savory and dessert options including cakes, cupcakes, cookies, sandwiches, breakfast foods, snacks and appetizers. They also offer a wide array of gluten-free desserts and breads.

The Cookie Jar provided a sampling of their catering options to the *Scroll* staff. Among our favorites were the party mix, cake push pops and decorated sugar cookies. The cookies can be decorated to fit any party



KNIGHT SCROLL

The Cookie Jar caters a variety of party foods including desserts, snacks, vegetable and fruit pizzas, salads and sandwiches. They offer gluten-free options as well.

theme and come in a variety of shapes such as footballs, music notes, graduation caps, owls and diplomas.

Catering options are reasonably priced. Assorted cookies

cost \$12.00 a dozen, and custom decorated cookies cost \$15.50 a dozen.

Visit cookiejarsd.com for more information on pricing and menu options.

Airborne Toxic Event releases two albums, surprises eager fans

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 24 The Airborne Toxic Event released their fourth and fifth albums. The band surprised fans by announcing on Feb. 23 that they would not only be releasing the anticipated album, *Dope Machines*, but also another album, *Songs of God and Whiskey*.

The Airborne Toxic Event does not disappoint with either album; however, each album is distinctly different. *Dope Machines* diverges from the band's traditional sound, while *Songs of God and Whiskey* sticks to their usual acoustic style.

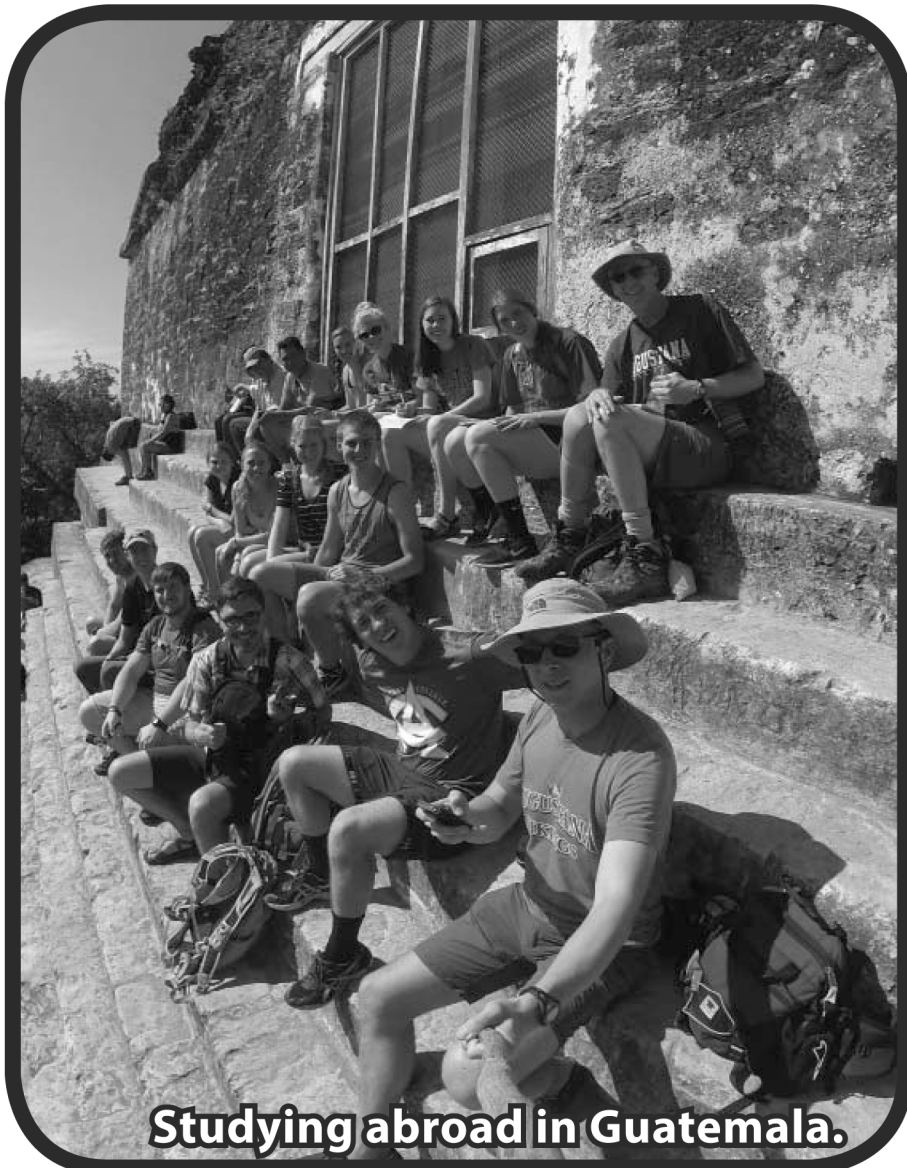
Songs of God and Whiskey kicks off the album with "Poor Isaac," a song that instantly draws listeners in. Starting strong, the

rest of the album follows suit. While softer in tone than the first track, the other songs are still immensely enjoyable.

Dope Machines gives listeners a familiar tune, "Hell and Back," released in 2013. While this song is more acoustic, the rest of the album takes on an electronic feel.

Switching to an electronic sound for the album, the band adds more possibilities for future work; however, it did not measure up to their acoustic albums, making long-time fans wonder if the switch was a good idea. On the other hand, fans of the synth-driven sound will enjoy this album much more than the band's other work.

Fans can buy both albums at the band's website: www.theairbornetoxicevent.com



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Give thanks for teachers

Nate Sotebeer
Guest Writer

“To form a community of faith and learning by promoting a Catholic way of life through Gospel values and academic excellence.” This mission statement graces every classroom at O’Gorman High School and serves as a reminder of what a gift education is.

Teachers at O’Gorman are among the lowest paid you will find across the nation, yet they all do their job while striving to follow the guideline that students learn to sing in elementary school. Sure, I prefer some of them over others, but it is important to recognize that they all work to educate us to the best of their abilities and care for our success in life.



This extra step of caring for students is what sets Catholic education apart from its counterparts, and we as a student body should be thankful for the gift we have received through the circumstances that allow us to attend O’Gorman High School.

Every staff member in the building commits to educating us to be more than students - they

prepare us to be leaders for our generation. The acceptance of this responsibility is commendable, and I believe that every teacher - past, present and future - deserves to know how much we, the students, appreciate them.

As the school year draws to a close, it is important that we show this appreciation for the hard work people have gone to in order to provide our education since the first day of school on August 18.

As the weather gets nicer and we begin daydreaming about summer during a math lecture, or waste time working on an English essay, let’s do our best to push through and finish the year strong. Too many people have put in too much work for us to throw away their efforts at educating the whole person.



Photo Survey
“What is your favorite jelly bean flavor?”



“I love Starburst jelly beans - I have some at home right now.”

- Sue Knight



“Definitely blue raspberry.”

- Will Michels



“I prefer Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups.”

- Olivia McDowell



“I like cherry.”

- Louis Peterson



“Root Beer”

- Sarah Eckerstorfer

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